Telephone exchanges in Srinager (Garhwal)

† 966. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3240 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April, 2000 and state:

(a) what is the latest position of those 10 exchanges which were decided to be set up in Gartroal (West Uttar Pradesh) during 1999-2000;

(b) the number of those out of the above which are functioning properly; and

(c) whether some of these exchanges have been linked with F.C. line; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) All the 10 exchanges mentioned in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3240 dated 25.4.2000 have since been installed and are functioning properly. However, the two exchanges at Yamkeshwar and Nainidanda have not yet been connected with transmission media. The transmission media is under installation and is likely to be commissioned during August, 2000.

(c) Yes, Sir. Shivpuri and Gumkhal telephone exchanges have been linked with OFC line.

Appointment of Secretary DTS

967. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that officers of the Indian Telecom Service (ITs) went on mass casual leave recently to protest the appointment of IAS officer as DTS Secretary; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that till recently the post

† Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.